



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-014  
Prompted By: FLEET COMPLAINT  
Date Opened: 02/05/2004  
Principal Investigator: TOM BOWMAN  
Subject: STEERING LOCK-UP

Manufacturer: VOLVO TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA, INC.  
Products: 1998-1999 VOLVO TRUCKS  
Population: 5000

Problem Description: Broken or deformed pieces of the plastic turn signal canceller ring installed in the steering wheel hub may fracture and lodge in the steering wheel assembly causing steering lock-up.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	4	0	4
Injury Incidents:	1	0	1
# Injuries:	1	0	1
Fatality Incidents:	2	0	2
# Fatalities:	4	0	4
Other*:	0	0	0

\*Description Of Other:

Action: OPEN A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 02/05/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 02/05/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/05/2004

Summary: On December 11, 2003, a fleet operator notified ODI of four vehicle crashes (that had occurred in 1998 and 1999) in which a Volvo Trucks North America (VTNA) tractor had departed the roadway and crashed. At that time, other drivers at the fleet had complained of occasional steering binding or "lock-up." The fleet later found a vehicle in which the steering wheel turn signal canceller ring had fractured and lodged in a position that caused high steering resistance.

The canceller ring was an optional feature installed in only some 1998-1999 VTNA tractors manufactured.

ODI is concerned whether the fracture, distortion, or displacement of the turn signal canceller ring can affect vehicle steering in vehicles equipped with this optional feature.

The fatal crash allegations have not been confirmed by ODI as having been caused by the alleged problem. We will review relevant material during our investigation.

FAKED  
1/16/04